

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 3, 5, 6, 8-10, 12, 14, 15 are amended to eliminate multiple dependencies. Prompt and favorable consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure:  
Appendix

Date: February 21, 2001

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DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE  
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## APPENDIX

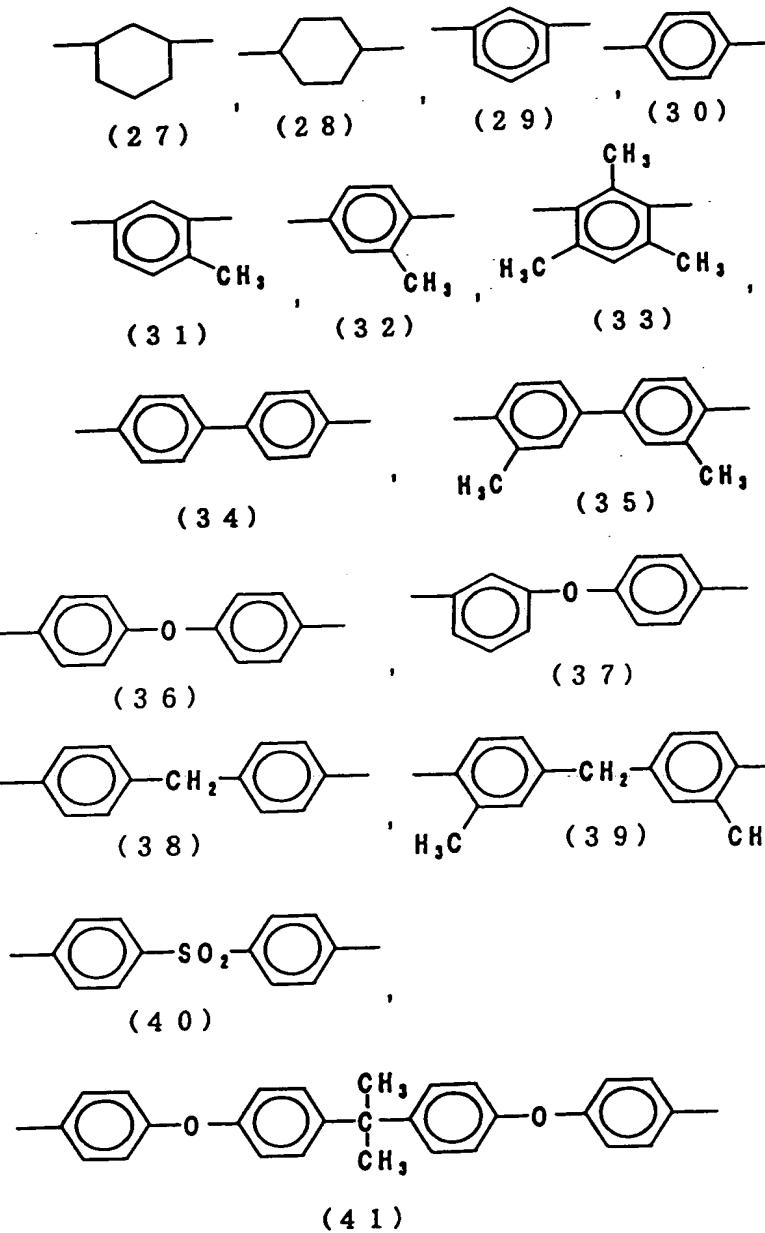
The following is a marked-up version of the amended claims 3,5, 6, 8-10, 12, 14, 15:

### Claim 3.

Liquid crystal alignment agent according to Claim 1 or ~~Claim 2~~, where said polymer is polyamide.

### Claim 5.

Liquid crystal alignment agent according to Claim 3 or ~~Claim 4~~, where R<sup>10</sup> or R<sup>11</sup> in the general formula (18) above or R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> in the general formula (19a) and (19b) are independently of each other radical selected from the formula (27) – (41) below

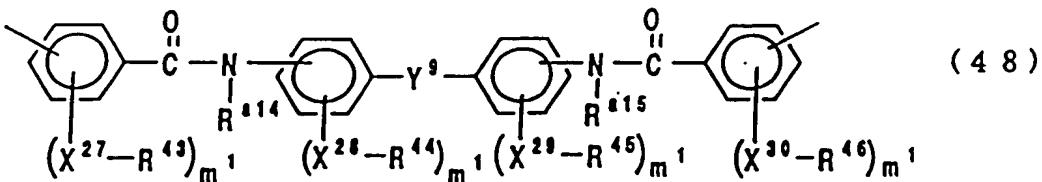
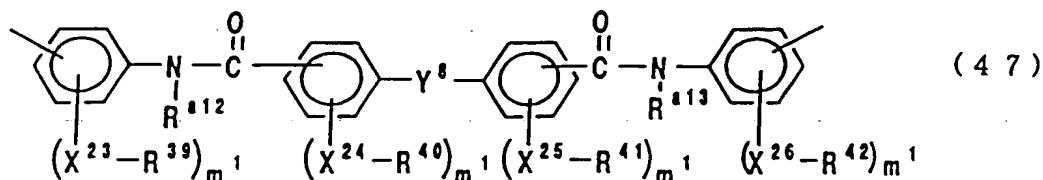
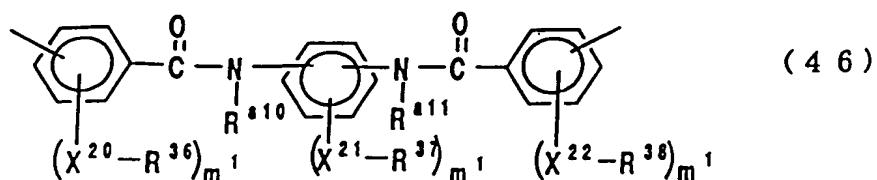
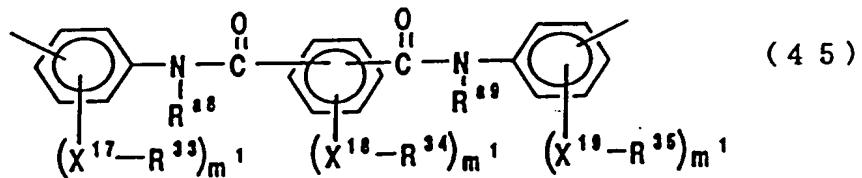
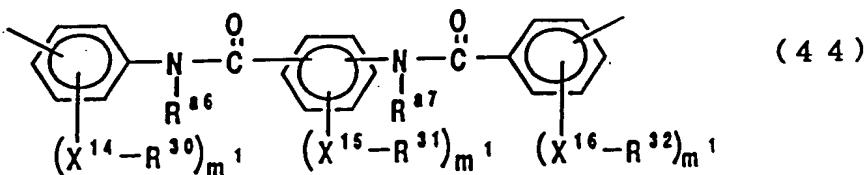
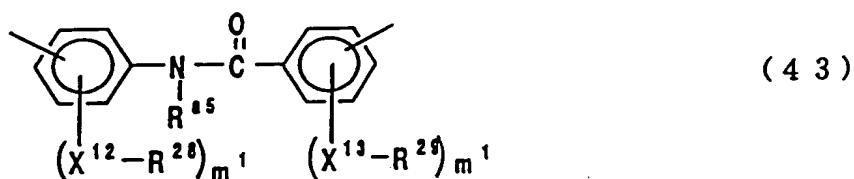


Claim 6.

Liquid crystal alignment agent according to Claim 1 or ~~Claim 2~~, where said polymer compound is polyimide precursor or polyimide obtained by chemical or heat imidization of said polyimide precursor.

Claim 8.

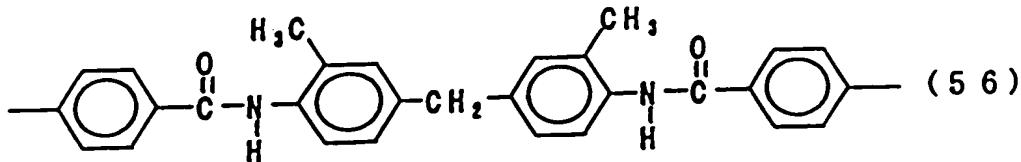
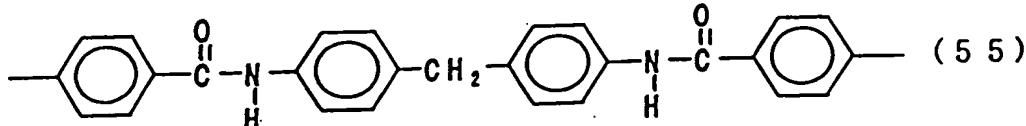
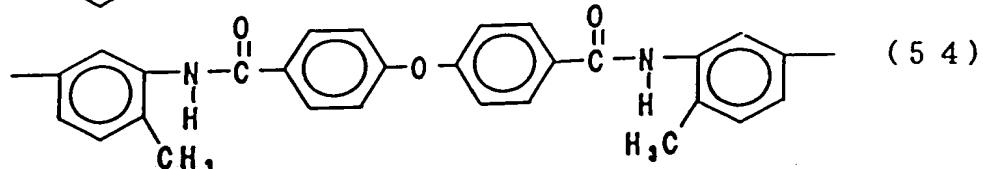
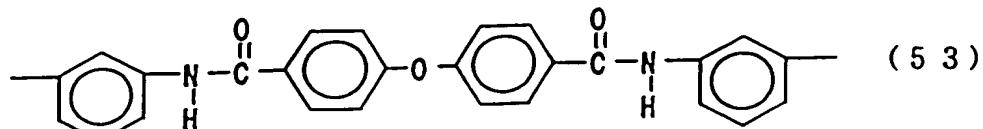
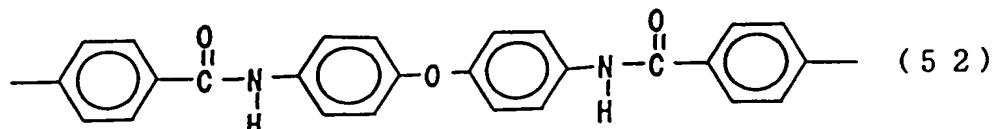
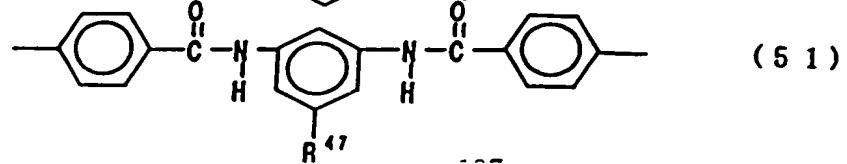
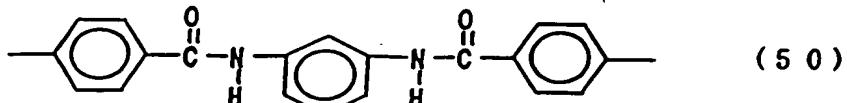
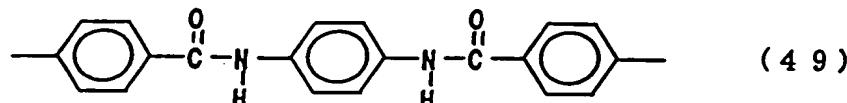
Liquid crystal alignment agent according to Claim 6 or ~~Claim 7~~, where R<sup>27</sup> in the general formula (42a) and (42b) above is selected from the general formula (43) – (48) below



wherein  $X^{12}$  -  $X^{30}$  are independently of each other single bond, O,  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{OCO}$  or  $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ ;  $R^{28}$  -  $R^{46}$  are independently of each other hydrogen, halogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{24}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{24}$  alkyl containing fluorine, aryl, propargyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl;  $R^{a5}$  -  $R^{a15}$  are independently of each other hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl or propargyl;  $Y^8$  and  $Y^9$  are O, S,  $\text{SO}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}_2$ , NH,  $\text{NHCO}$  or  $\text{CONH}_2$ ; and  $m^1$  is an integer of 1 - 4 with the proviso that  $R^{28}$  -  $R^{46}$  are hydrogen or halogen, then  $X^{12}$  -  $X^{30}$  are single bond.

**Claim 9.**

Liquid crystal alignment agent according to ~~any one of Claim 6 through Claim 8~~; where radical for  $R^{27}$  in the general formula (42a) and (42b) above is selected from in the formula (49) - (56) below



wherein  $R^{47}$  is halogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{24}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{24}$  alkoxy or  $C_1$ - $C_{24}$  alkoxy carbonyl.

Claim 10.

Liquid crystal alignment agent according to Claim 1 or ~~Claim 2~~, where said polymer compound is polyurethane.

Claim 12.

Liquid crystal alignment agent according to Claim 1 or ~~Claim 2~~, where said polymer compound is polyurea.

Claim 14.

Liquid crystal device by the use of the liquid crystal alignment agent according to ~~any one of~~ Claim 1 through ~~Claim 13~~.

Claim 15.

Alignment method of liquid crystals characterized by the use of the liquid crystal alignment agent according to ~~any one of~~ Claim 1 through ~~Claim 13~~, where light or electron rays being irradiated over the thin polymer film formed on the surface of the substrate and achieving liquid crystal alignment without rubbing action.